

Appl. No.: 10/756,992
Amendment Dated November 7, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 27, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration by the Examiner is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the remarks which follow.

Several clarifying amendments have been made to the claims to place them in better form for examination. It is believed that these amendments also address the points of indefiniteness noted by the Examiner in the section 112 rejection. In addition, new claims 9 to 11 are presented directed to preferred aspects of the invention. These claims are fully supported by the specification as filed.

Claims 1 to 5 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al. GB 2070626. This reference discloses a sound insulation comprising a rubber copolymer and inorganic filler leading to a polymer composition having a maximum specific gravity or density of 2.66. See run number 23, table 5, page 7. In most of the examples, the density is between 1.34 and 2.04. Note tables 1 to 4. Claim 1 specifies that the flexible and heavy polymer has a specific gravity in the range of 3 to 10, which is considerably higher than anything disclosed in the reference. Claim 2 specifies that the polymer has a modulus in the range of 10^4 Pa to 10^7 Pa. In Yamamoto, the modulus is between 750 kg per square centimeter (table 2 run 8) and 60,000 kg per square centimeter (run 17, comparative example) i.e. 7.4×10^7 to 5.9×10^9 Pa, which is considerably higher than the claimed range. It should be evident, therefore, that the Yamamoto reference neither anticipates nor renders obvious applicant's claimed invention. Reconsideration by the Examiner and withdrawal of rejection or respectfully solicited.

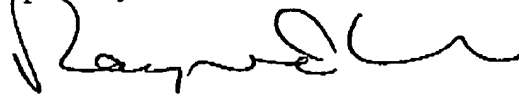
Claims 6 to 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodiyalam et al. US 5,473,122 in view of Yamamoto et al. The Kodiyalam et al. reference is relied upon for its disclosure of a sound absorbing polymer on a honeycomb. However, whether considered singly or in combination with the Yamamoto reference, it does not teach a structure having the properties as defined in the claims of record. Accordingly, reconsideration by the Examiner and withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for new addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper.

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However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

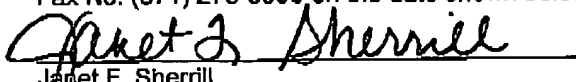


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.


Janet F. Sherrill
C1101/4759221v1

November 7, 2005
Date